

Cultural Tensions of the 1920s

| Issue | Supporter's view | Opponent's view |
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| Ku Klux Klan | This organization provides a defense against the mongrelization of America in its opposition to blacks, Catholics, Jews, and foreigners. It promotes traditional values, such as patriotism, Christianity, and community responsibility. | Religious and racially bigoted, the KKK taps into the worst aspects of intolerance and hate and promotes vigilantism. |
| Prohibition | Alcoholism destroys families and weakens the fabric of society. Prohibiting the buying, selling, and transporting of liquor reduces crime. | This attempt to legislate morality actually allows criminals to flourish. It represents an attempt to restrict personal liberty and causes more problems than it cures. |
| Evolutionism | As scientific knowledge grows, this theory helps provide an explanation of the development of life on earth. It is also consistent with progress. | A threat to religious belief and thus to American society by denying the truth of Genesis, evolutionism is a rejection of traditional values. |
| Fundamentalism | Promoting a solid trust in the Bible as being literally inspired by God, it provides a consistent answer to the evils of society. | Led by self-promoting evangelists who prey on people's prejudices and superstitions, this outmoded, anti-scientific world view hinders society's progress. |
| Jazz Music | Modern, lively, improvisational, and fun | Undisciplined, vulgar, and leading to increased sexuality, particularly among the young and African-Americans. |
| Increase in Immigration | Ethnic and racial diversity has been a source of American strength in the past and continues to vitalize the nation. | Represents an undermining of the dominant white culture and a compromising of traditional American values. |
| Increased Consumerism | Promotes material progress, a growth in the middle class, and higher living standards for all. | Results in waste, economic dangers (overproduction, surpluses, credit buying), and self-indulgence. |

*Based on *The American Journey: A History of the United States* by Goldfield, et al.